

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
KEY WEST BUREAU
MAIN P.O. BOX 1056
KEY WEST, FL 33041-1056

MFL-5019
5 July 1985

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--June 1985

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Cuban President Fidel Castro gave two speeches during the month, one on 5 June at the closing session of a conference hosted by Cuba on the role of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and another on 23 June at the closing session of the "Orthopedia '85" medical conference. The principal foreign affairs topic in Cuba remains the "unpayable" nature of the Latin American foreign debt and Cuba's campaign for a debtors' strike.

2. Several Cabinet changes were announced by Cuba during the month, including the resignation of Politburo member Guillermo Garcia Frias from his position as minister of transportation.

3. From 4 to 23 June Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid toured Europe, visiting Spain, Britain, Belgium, the FRG and France in search of foreign investors and bilateral trade agreements.

4. In the Caribbean, Barbados, St. Vincent and Suriname announced Cabinet reshuffles, and Grenada hosted a summit meeting of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States from 15 to 16 June. Jamaican Prime Minister Seaga had his hands full with a potentially serious 3-day strike by government workers seeking higher wages. Workers in the Dominican Republic also called a 24-hour general strike demanding higher wages and an end to austerity measures imposed due to IMF demands. The Dominican Republic also announced two armed forces personnel changes affecting the top military hierarchy.

B. Communications

1. On 3 June Panama and Key West Bureaus began using four AIG's for traffic on Latin America. Implementation has been exceedingly smooth with only a handful of requests for re promulgation of original announcement of package composition.

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2. The bureau's Communications Report was updated and pouches to headquarters.

3. Coverage of the Caribbean News Agency was seriously impaired due to a total of 149 hours of downtime caused primarily by equipment malfunctions in RCA's New York relay. However, CANA has been refiling significant reports on a time-available basis.

C. Lateral Services

Concerning the flurry of activity generated by the initiation of Radio Marti broadcasts by USIA, we received a letter from James Todd, political/economic officer at U.S. Interests Section Havana, in which he states: "We were very favorably impressed with all the monitoring reports you put out in the early days of Radio Marti, which enabled us to keep track of what the Cuban radio stations were (and weren't) doing."

D. Technical

1. Audio Select Assemblies were permanently installed in the six monitoring booths and in the TV monitoring room, providing push button access to the six central console receivers and Havana TV audio channels.

2. The bureau's experimental 97-degree Beverage antenna targeted on the Dominican Republic, Haiti, the Bahamas and eastern Cuba was made more permanent with burial of the coax lead-in and substitution of metal poles for makeshift wooden supports. The poles and 275 feet of underground conduit with a pull-box and two risers were installed by a local contractor.

3. Two technical representatives from Dynalectron Corporation, which maintains the Navy's transmitter site antennas on Saddlebunch Key, visited bureau on 27 June to evaluate condition of our two CATV towers and inspect other antennas with view toward drafting a proposal for repair and periodic maintenance. Preliminary findings reveal serious corrosion on CATV towers, guy wire anchors and metal base supports requiring immediate attention. A formal proposal is expected shortly which will be forwarded to Engineering Division for review.

4. Two representatives from Florida Video Systems, Miami, visited bureau on 20 June to discuss possible alternatives to unsatisfactory Betamax equipment used for unattended weekend recording of Havana television. A written proposal on improving system should be forthcoming soon.

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5. Nonexpendable property received during the month consists of one television demodulator Videotek Model DM-4RA, SN: 2850703.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

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1. Monitor/editor

[redacted] departed PCS on

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14 June en route to Asuncion. Most off-duty personnel and spouses attended a farewell dinner for [redacted] at Turtle Kraals, a well-known local seafood bistro.

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2.

[redacted] a local monitorial candidate currently employed by Naval Security Group Activity, Key West, was interviewed and given a preliminary written test with satisfactory results. However, a more extensive audio test was not given as she does not plan to leave the Navy until 1987. She was asked to contact us again next summer should we still have projected openings.

3. Due to interest in potential employment at Key West by one current and one former foreign national Spanish monitor, Admin Staff investigated problem of employing PRA's at a domestic site. Question is somewhat moot at this point as neither individual currently has "Green Card" status.

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4.

After a successful 6-week trial period, computer/admin assistant [redacted] has been assigned additional "associate editor" duties editing CANA English copy. Selection and assignment of handling precedence remain in hands of regular staff monitor/editors. To avoid potential confusion, she signs copy with maiden name [redacted]

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B. Building & Grounds

1. A local contractor completed installation of new vinyl-coated fencing around operations building and back perimeter of antenna field. Hopefully, vinyl coating will be more resistant to corrosive environment at bureau.

2. Bureau continues to experience serious problems with central air conditioning system. A burned out fan motor on the condenser was replaced, but system is still not working properly due to corroded aluminum fins on condenser units which do not allow for proper heat exchange (AC contractor termed cooling fins "free-standing dust" as they crumble to the touch!). Solutions being

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considered are to find replacement condensers with copper cooling fins or replace entire system if constant wear on compressors has considerably shortened their useful life. Current system was put on line a little over 2 years ago in April 1983!

IV. VISITS

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1. MOD staffer [redacted] visited bureau on TDY from 4 to 21 June to keep track of Radio Marti aftermath while cruising contractor [redacted] vacationed in Hawaii.

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2. Panama Bureau monitor/supervisor [redacted] returned to bureau on 10 June for an extended TDY to supplement monitorial staff during summer leave period and assist in training of a new monitor.

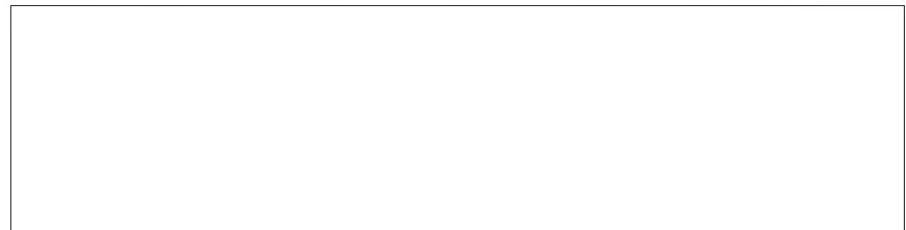
3. Bureau chief and wife represented FBIS at 7 June NAS change of command ceremony during which base commander Captain James "Red" Best was relieved by Captain Ray Sullivan. On 14 June bureau chief attended change of command at Boca Chica Navy Communications Unit during which LCDR William Castle was relieved by LCDR Edward Barger.

4. USAF Col. Ford Daab, new director of J-2/COMUSFORCARIB, along with USAF Maj. Thomas Charters visited bureau on 13 June for orientation and briefing on FBIS mission.

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5. Panama Bureau monitor [redacted] visited bureau on 24 June for 1-day TDY while on private travel to Miami. Primary purpose of visit was to investigate potential employment in Key West.

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Attachment:

Production Report

cc: C/Panama, C/Paraguay Bureaus

KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JUNE 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 141,880

TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 27,770

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH : 576

II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER WEEK)	BROADCAST 2,575 MIN	PRESS AGENCIES 14,700 MIN	PUBLICATIONS 21 ISSUES
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III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

BAHAMAS

Nassau Domestic Service in English	<u>460</u>
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Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English	<u>-0-</u>
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BARBADOS

Bridgetown CANA in English	<u>69,470</u>
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Bridgetown ADVOCATE in English	<u>1,520</u>
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Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English	<u>-0-</u>
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BELIZE

Belize City Domestic Service in English	<u>140</u>
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CUBA

Havana Domestic Service in Spanish	<u>25,220</u>
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Havana Television Service in Spanish	<u>12,290</u>
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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Santo Domingo Radio Mil in Spanish	<u>-0-</u>
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Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish	<u>1,920</u>
JAMAICA	
Kingston Domestic Service in English	<u>1,220</u>
Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English	<u>-0-</u>
Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English	<u>-0-</u>
MEXICO	
Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish	<u>25,850</u>
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	
Bonaire Trans World Radio in English	<u>2,960</u>
THE NETHERLANDS	
Hilversum International in English	<u>830</u>
OTHER SOURCES:	